

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11008 291037Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 SS-15 ONY-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 /041 W
-----087230 291047Z /10 R

O 291016Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7860
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1081

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11008

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, RP
SUBJECT: NEW YORK INCIDENT -- SOLUTION IN SIGHT

REF: (A) STATE 165097; (B) USUN 2718

1. HAD TWO HOUR MEETING WITH MARCOS THIS MORNING.
I OPENED MEETING WITH EXPRESSION OF
HOPE WE COULD TOGETHER FIND WAY TO BRING NEW
YORK INCIDENT TO SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION. DESCRIBED
PROBLEMS WE FORESAW IN HOST COUNTRY COMMITTEE HANDLING OF
ISSUE WITH SUBSEQUENT LIKELY PLAY IN NEW YORK PRESS. THIS
WOULD BE NO HELP WHATSOEVER IN ACHIEVING AMICABLE SOLUTION
WE BOTH SOUGHT.

2. AFTER HEARING ME OUT MARCOS SAID HE WAS INCLINED TO
TAKE NO IMMEDIATE ACTION BEYOND RELEASING AT 1500 HOURS
MANILA TIME FRIDAY, JUNE 30, THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO
ROMULO. I SAID WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THAT AND
ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD WANT US TO MAKE PARALLEL RELEASE IN
WASHINGTON. HE CONCURRED BUT URGED THAT IT NOT BE DONE
BEFORE 1500 HOURS MANILA TIME. GOP PUTS PARTICULAR
EMPHASIS ON GETTING MAJOR STORIES INTO SATURDAY MORNING
EDITIONS. I SAID THIS WOULD MEAN WE MIGHT RELEASE LETTER
AT THE FRIDAY NOON BRIEFING.

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3. MARCOS SAID HE HOPED THAT THE MEDIA WOULD NOT BE GIVEN
ACCESS TO THE NEW YORK POLICE REPORT. REPLIED I WOULD
ADVISE WASHINGTON AND USUN TO THIS EFFECT.

4. PRESIDENT CONTINUED HE STILL HAD PROBLEM ON HIS HANDS
WHICH HE NEEDED OUR ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING. DACALANIO AND
CEBUANG HAVE BOTH TOLD AMBASSADOR YANGO THAT THEY INTEND

PRESS CHARGES AGAINST NEW YORK POLICE OFFICERS CONCERNED.
SHORT OF CALLING YANGO BACK TO MANILA AND PERSONALLY ORDERING
NO SUCH ACTION BE TAKEN, PRESIDENT COULD DO NOTHING TO
DISCOURAGE THEM FROM FILING SUIT.

5. FOR THIS REASON MARCOS HOPED THAT U.S. SIDE COULD
ARRANGE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO FILIPINOS AND PERHAPS THE
TWO OFFICERS ON THE BEAT WHO HAD BEEN THE FIRST TO GET
INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT. I ASKED WHETHER MARCOS THOUGHT
IT USEFUL TO INVOLVE MORE SENIOR PERSONNEL SUCH AS
SULLIVAN. HE REPLIED IN NEGATIVE, SAYING THAT FILIPINOS
DO NOT UNDERSTAND IF THE PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN A
FRACAS FAIL TO COME TO THEM AND TALK PROBLEM OUT. USE OF
INTERMEDIARIES WOULD PROVE UNAVAILING.

6. I COMMENTED THAT NEW YORK POLICE OFFICERS MIGHT FEEL
INHIBITED OVER CONTACTING THE FILIPINOS IN QUESTION
BECAUSE OF CONCERN THAT THEY MAY SUBSEQUENTLY BE TAKEN TO
COURT BY SAME INDIVIDUALS. MARCOS REPLIED HE SAW HIS
SUGGESTION AS "THE ONE WAY TO AVOID A COURT CASE." FACE-
TO-FACE TALKS WOULD HELP TO RELIEVE TENSION BOTH AT GOP
MISSION TO UN AND GOP EMBASSY WASHINGTON. HE SAW NO OTHER
WAY OUT AND NOTED THAT CERTAIN LOCAL POLITICIANS, INCLUDIN
LUIS TARUC, WERE STILL DETERMINED TO EXPLOIT IT.

7. SAID I WOULD REPORT AND ENDORSE HIS RECOMMENDATION.
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CLEARLY WE AGREED THE BEST THING WAS TO AVOID FURTHER
PUBLIC WRANGLING AND I HOPED HIS SUGGESTION WOULD PROVE
FEASIBLE.

8. JUST PRIOR TO SEEING MARCOS I PASSED BY FOREIGN
MINISTRY AT ROMULO'S REQUEST. HE INITIALLY PROFESSED
POINT OF MEETING WAS TO SHARE RECENT INTEL ON AREA DEVELOP
MENTS. WHEN I WORKED CONVERSATION AROUND TO NEW YORK
INCIDENT, HE QUICKLY NOTED HE WAS CONSIDERING CONTACTING
PRESIDENT TO SUGGEST THAT HE AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF VANCE
LETTER.

9. COMMENT: I THINK MARCOS DECIDED TO COOL IT AND
ROMULO'S STATEMENT ABOVE WAS MERELY DESIGNED IMPLY HE AS
FONMIN WAS RUNNING WHOLE SCENARIO. TEMPERATURE HAS GONE
OUT OF INCIDENT AS FAR AS BOTH PRESIDENT AND FONMIN ARE
CONCERNED.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: USUN CONTACT POLICE COMMISSIONER,
EXPLAIN RATIONALE FOR MARCOS SUGGESTION AND ATTEMPT
ARRANGE SUGGESTED RECONCILIATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. KNO
THAT USG WILL HONOR REQUEST NOT TO RELEASE POLICE REPORT

TO MEDIA. THIS POINT SHOULD BE MADE FORCEFULLY TO POLICE
AS WELL.

11. PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATE IF ANY PROBLEM PERCEIVED IN
GOP RELEASE OF VANCE LETTER 1500 HOURS MANILA TIME
TOMORROW. I AM HOPEFUL THAT GOP WILL NOT PURSUE HOST
COUNTRY COMMITTEE MEETING. AM MOST APPRECIATIVE FOR
SUPPORT AND COUNSEL FROM DEPARTMENT AND USUN IN THIS MATTE
AND HOPE RELEASE OF LETTER WILL ENABLE US ALL TO GET BACK
TO BUSINESS OF GREATER MOMENT. MURPHY

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